

LOUISVILLE JOURNAL

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SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 1865.

THE FOURTH OF MARCH.—This day of Presidential inauguration is vastly important in our current history. Since the installation of Washington as the first Chief Executive, the people have looked with profound anxiety to the inception of new Administrations as deeply affecting the national weal or woe, for, with the exception of one party succeeding that of another, new policies and new principles have been adopted upon the field of politics; however, an Administration is condemned in power, much of public solicitude is relieved by the fact that its line of future action has been clearly declared in its former course, and the popular majority quickly repose in the conviction that that course having been well must still conduce to the general good, while the minority, in the spirit of enlightened democracy, yields with patient acquiescence. The American people have paid a very high compliment to Abraham Lincoln in retaining his service for another term as their Chief National Executive. His administration during the last four years has been, and doubtless has been marked by acts unique and skillful, but it should be remembered, never since the government was framed has the Presidential office been encumbered by exigencies at once so novel and pernicious as those which, from the election of Mr. Lincoln's administration, have embroiled his official labors. When he assumed the Presidency, the country had known comparatively little of war; the people were children of luxury and peace. Since then, the most wailike struggle of modern times has been waged, and they who were children have become giants in strength and giant in will, turned to the hardest toll. It requires, therefore, a full conception of the great dangers encountered to justify estimate of the administration of the last four years. During that period new measures, antagonistic to long-cherished popular principles, have been introduced into the necessities of the Government in their great struggle, but time, we hope, will prove them to have been for the best. We should be imprudent not to hope this, whatever we may fear.

No other administration of the Government has encountered so much opposition and denunciation as that which Mr. Lincoln's has sustained, and yet, after a canvas of its entire history, the people resolved to continue it in power. We acquiesce in the popular determination, and stand ready to uphold the President during his second term in all that he shall wisely do to defeat our enemies and restore the integrity of the national Union. When we have reason to differ from him, we shall endeavor to differ kindly. We can repudiate his own opinions. We do not see that Mr. Lincoln's principles are inimical to the American people, and we are sure that the people, sensible of the trying times with which he is charged, will devote their lives and all they have, if need be, in sustaining him in his constitutional action throughout this perilous struggle. After four years of costly and desperate conflict with rebellion, the present is auspicious of complete national triumph, and we believe, that, long before the expiration of his second term, Abraham Lincoln will "execute the law" throughout every State. Let then, the elements of peace, a balm while we cease not to labor, and let the people, fatigued and strained upon the grand purpose of this war, let the President direct those energies with an eye single to the nation's redemption, and, under Providence, we shall witness, four years hence, the Government restored wherein its legitimate jurisdiction pertains, and peace and prosperity will be permanently established in the land.

THE Louisville Union Press, speaking of an article that appeared in the Charleston Mercury on the day of the bombardment of Fort Sumter, says:

"The next day, after the above article appeared, all religion was in unbound'd ecstasy of delight. The joy was no longer sober. Lincolns' enemies were all over the earth, and were to be humbled in a twinkling. Selves of artillery were fired all over the South. Mass meetings were held in every town, and the people of wisdom and addressed by men who were little less than raving maniacs. There appeared then the wonderful and unprecedented instance of the people being smitten with temporary insanity."

It is not correct to say, that "the entire people of the South were at that time 'smitten with insanity.' Then and for a good while afterwards a great many of the people of that nation were against the rebellion and for the Union. The legal press everywhere expressed the fullest conviction that, if all pressures were lifted from the Southern people, leaving them free to speak and vote according to their own opinions, a decided majority of them would go for the Union without hesitation. Their entire course, however, was to be a rebellion, and moreover an exterminated, a compelled insanity. This was President Lincoln's view, and he expressed it in many occasions. He even stated, that, if he compelled the Southern people to be in favor of the rebellion, he should make no effort to bring them back by force. He claimed to have done for the reason that he deemed it his duty to give freedom of word and action to any section of Union men to speak and act to Union men crushed down by a most insatiable despotism."

It was only after the enactment of the Emancipation act, the Confiscation act, the Negro Enrollment act, etc., that there was any approach to unanimity on the part of the Southern people. Then, however, did a vast deal toward uniting them. Still, they did not now have unanimity. We must, for a time, be men and women, during a late Southern tour, who, in under-tones, declared their devotion to the restoration of the old Union. May Heaven protect them and grant them increase of numbers and power. If there were no Union man in the South, we should almost despair of restoration upon any principles or conditions that the minds of statesmen recognize as legitimate or allowable."

"An impious oil well in Pennsylvania flows from thirty to forty gallons daily, and sixty to seventy gallons on Sunday."—*Post*.

Why call it impious? Don't our very preachers overflow most on Sundays?

A letter-writer says that Gen. Hood, some time ago, was captured, and, with a stone while passing along his line, Hood generally carries a bold front, but, nevertheless, seems to have thought that he needed a bolder.

"It is said that the South Carolinians, who are the rebels for which, are more enraged than ever since the fall of their capital and their chief commercial port. The rascals have lost their fangs but not their poison-bag."

"The South made war for the sake of her negroes, and has lost them. Seldom have we known so striking an exemplification of the saving about going for wool and coming home."

Twenty-eight hundred-jumpers were confined last Thursday and Friday within the walls of the Army at Indianapolis. Now, jumpers, you will have to jump high to jump out.

"We guess the Federal forces won't give up South Carolina. When they got knee-deep into her swamps, they showed themselves deeply attached to her soil."

Hanging is the punishment denounced against rebels. If a man is only technically hung.

The notorious Belle Rock lately got married in London. It is said that she made a bad match. So did the fellow that married her.

The Springfield (Mass.) Republican advises the destruction of Charleston. But Charleston is ours. Why destroy our own cities?

"The Pennsylvanians are getting such a rage that all who expect to hear of them, bearing every man that can be had."

The crime of rebelling against a good government is greater than the virtue of throwing off a bad one.

Women, who, like Sue Mundy, wear men's clothes, should be indicted for malpractice.

"Victory is Sherman's 'second nature,' for it is his 'habit'."

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